



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
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PHIL BREDESEN
Governor

VIRGINIA T. LODGE
Commissioner

TCDHH COUNCIL MEETING
League for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Friday, August 27, 2010

Members Present: Terry Smith, Thom Roberts, Lordy Smith, Margie Ulrich, Kim Dance, Summer Chappell, Deborah Harris, Dana Hughes (Chair), Paulette Melton (Vice-Chair), and Alan Mealka

Members Not Present: Andrea Cooper, Michael Friedman,

Call to Order

At approximately 9:09 am Dana called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

The next town hall meeting is on November 20 in Knoxville and the final meeting is January 20 in Jackson.

Dana would like to establish some Consumer Representative guidelines.

Review of Minutes

The Council members were asked if they had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Being confirmed, the Council was then asked to approve these minutes. If approved, minutes stand as the official record of the previous meeting on May 14, 2010.

- ✓ Individual Action: Motion made by Lordy Smith and seconded by Summer Chappell for the minutes to stand as the official record of the previous meeting on May 14, 2010.
- ✓ Member Action: The Council voted verbally with all ayes, no nays.
Motion Carried.

Vocational Rehabilitation Report

Terry Smith

- ❖ We are trying to fill vacant counselor positions and hopefully we'll be fully staffed in thirty days.
- ❖ The video phones that were ordered for the VR counselors for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing have been delivered but not set up yet. All counselors also have Blackberries.
- ❖ We now have a letter of understanding with the Knoxville center to do job placement with our VR clients and would like to see other centers involved with the program.
- ❖ The Vocational Rehabilitation Division took no major budget hits this fiscal year. One of our major initiatives is Employment First in which employment is the focus for VR clients from the very start.

Report from Lana Newton

Since I started my job two years ago I had 143 people on the adult deaf-blind register. That number has now grown to over 450 with probably four times that many who have not been identified. I sent out 87 packets for students who are deaf-blind on the children's register right now, and I'm getting referrals almost daily back.

Council Member Reports

- **Alan Mealka** –
 - School is back in session in both East and West Tennessee. Over the summer we hosted three summer camps, a family learning weekend where 30 to 40 families attended, and an educational interpreter workshop.
 - WTSD is hosting a run and revenue opportunity on September 25.
 - TSD's homecoming is October 30 and we are rededicating the gym which was built in 1928 and is now completely rehabilitated.
 - Our annual statewide workshop on deafness will be November 6.
- **Kim Dance** -
 - Dana and I attended the bi-annual TAD board meeting in Pennsylvania. Delegates to the Council of Representatives have selected the top 20 priorities of the NAD for the next two years.
 - DLAC advocate, Roger Boeving, attended the TAD board meeting and presented information on the DLAC.
 - Emergency Responders held workshops in Nashville and Knoxville.
 - The Deaf TN Expo will be held in Memphis on September 18.
- **Lordy Smith** –
 - The regional Black Deaf Advocates conference was in Birmingham, Alabama in August.
 - The Memphis town hall meeting had a good discussion regarding educational interpreters in the Memphis City Schools.
 - The East Memphis Quota Club is going to help with the Deaf TN Expo in September.

- **Paulette Melton** –
 - Some time ago, I submitted a request to have part of the manual for medical deduction rewritten to update it. As of yesterday the update had not come through.
 - There is a Community Service block grant (ARRA pharmaceutical assistance program) available in some areas that will help with purchasing hearing aids, eyeglasses, dental services, medication, etc.
- **Summer Chappell**–
 - The Region 2 Conference was held July 29 through August 1. It was a great conference with around 200 in attendance. We had great workshops and all had a wonderful time.
 - TRID is busy with various workshops and events.
 - TRID’s structure is going to be changing. We are trying to make sure we are in compliance and following all the RID rules.
- **Margie Ulrich**–
 - Thank you for welcoming me as a new council member.
- **Deborah Harris**–
 - Memphis City schools have been battling with the City Council for several years regarding school system funding. The Supreme Court has just ordered the City Council to pay Memphis City schools \$57 million and to continue funding education in Memphis.
 - We have two interpreter vacancies and are hoping to fill those soon.
 - Last year all of our teachers received laptops, and we now have laptops on order for our interpreters.

Executive Director’s Report

May

- 17 Spoke on behalf of Deaf Students and Educational Interpreters at the Memphis Board of Education Public Meeting
- 24 Provided Relay and TTY Training to Disability Determination Services

June

- 1&2 Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) Retreat Meetings at Montgomery Bell State Park
- 10 Tennessee Emergency Preparedness for Special Populations Meeting
- 18 Nashville Sounds Baseball TSPN Event

July

- 6 Orientation to Deafness Presentation on my experience with my hearing loss and TCDHH Information
- 29-31 Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Region II Meeting in Chattanooga

August

- 7 TN Association of the Deaf Board Meeting & TCDHH Town Hall Meeting
- 10 Emergency Responders & the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Taking the First Steps to Disaster Preparedness
- 11 TSPN Regional Meeting
- 16 Provided Relay and TTY Training to Disability Determination Services

Center Director Reports

- **CCDHH – Jessica Harrison** -
 - We had a supervisor place a rolodex card, with interpreter contact information, into each employee's mailbox at a newly opened hospital.
 - CCDHH has provided 24.75 hours of Community Service interpreting free charge.
 - Becky Allen with DLAC is now coming to the office monthly to meet with people who may have need of her services.
- **KCD – Bob Rittenhouse** -
 - Four deaf individuals have been trained and two have been placed in employment through the VR CRP jobs project.
 - KCD's grant with UT Hospital was renewed for another three years, beginning February 1, 2011.
 - We sponsored an all day workshop at KCD on emergency preparedness. Eighteen deaf, two deaf-blind and twenty first responders participated.
- **JCIL – Amy Cone** –
 - The Board of Directors is in the process of taking applications for a new Executive Director.
 - We spoke to a group of volunteer firemen and gave them some basic signs and sign placards with phrases to show a deaf person in an emergency situation and with our contact on the back to call in an emergency.
 - We are also trying to get our foot in the door to speak with the entire city firemen and have them come to our offices and show them the videophone and make the firemen aware of our services and where we're located.
- **Bridges – Sallie Hussey**-
 - Urban Housing Solutions, housing units designed especially for deaf/hard of hearing residents, are scheduled to be move-in ready in October or November.
 - Later this calendar year or early 2011, Hear Nashville will begin officially providing service through a call center, referrals, and fittings for hearing aids for the hard of hearing population.
- **Deaf Connect– Jim Walker**-
 - Last fall we had a town hall meeting for the Deaf community to hear their concerns.
 - We've brought in two very young Board members who will bring new insights with them.
 - Deaf Connect received a mini grant from Volunteers USA which is out of Florida to prepare for training for a full year educational Deaf Family Literacy program.

Committee Reports

- **Communication Committee**, Summer Chappell –
 - We are trying to work with all the Red Cross chapters across the state and I've spoken with all of them about getting interpreters to volunteer for emergency situations.
 - We are also working on licensure for interpreters. This will ensure Tennessee has top quality interpreters.

- **Legislative Committee**, Vacant – no report
- **Education Committee**, Deborah Harris –
 - The Deaf Family Literacy Academy Memphis is a new nonprofit program under the umbrella of Deaf Connect. The goals of the program are to improve reading skills of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and teach their parents to communicate using ASL. The program will also have educational meetings for parents to learn more about the needs of children with hearing loss.
- **Social Welfare**, Lygia Williams – no report.

Old Business/New Business

- **Old:**
 - There is no old business.
- **New:**
 - The annual State Report was submitted for approval.
 - Summer Chappell made a motion to accept the report.
 - Deborah Harris seconded the motion.
 - Motion Carried
 - Kim Dance nominated Dana Hughes to remain Chair of the council for another term. Dana accepted. There were no other nominations. By unanimous decision, Dana Hughes was re-elected as Chair of the council.
 - Dana Hughes nominated Paulette Melton to remain Vice-Chair of the council. Paulette accepted. There were no other nominations. By unanimous decision, Paulette Melton was re-elected as Vice-Chair of the council.
 - Dana's goal for the upcoming year is to organize a disability day on Capitol Hill.
 - The next council meeting will be November 5th.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman, Dana Hughes at 12:09 P.M.